



## **New Parent Guide**

**Welcome to the Richland Youth Association!!**

**As a resource for new parents, we have put together answers to questions you may have. This was created by a parent who has gone through several seasons (Baseball, Basketball, Football and Cheerleading) with RYA so it should cover most of the basics of our association. Feel free at anytime to ask questions to your coach. One or more RYA Board Members or designated representatives are at the sports venues at all times. You can also find out more information about the “in-season” sport located on our website at [www.myrya.com](http://www.myrya.com).**

## Registration

- During registration, you will sign up your child for the “in-season” sport.
- Registration can be accomplished either “in-office” or “online”.
- Drafts for the current sport will usually occur about 3 weeks prior to opening day of the sport.



## What each league means:

### • Baseball

At least	3	But not over	4	Before	4-30 (current year)	Shetland T-Ball
At least	5	But not over	6	Before	4-30 (current year)	Shetland T-Ball
At least	7	But not over	8	Before	4-30 (current year)	Pinto (coach pitch)
At least	9	But not over	10	Before	4-30 (current year)	Mustang
At least	11	But not over	12	Before	4-30 (current year)	Bronco
At least	13	But not over	14	Before	4-30 (current year)	Pony

### • Basketball

At least	5	But not over	6	Before	8-31 (current year)	Bantam (co-ed)
At least	7	But not over	8	Before	8-31 (current year)	Junior
At least	9	But not over	10	Before	8-31 (current year)	Intermediate
At least	11	But not over	12	Before	8-31 (current year)	Senior
At least	13	But not over	14	Before	8-31 (current year)	Super Senior

### • Football

At least	5	But not over	7	Before	8-31 (current year)	Bantam
At least	8	But not over	9	Before	8-31 (current year)	Junior
At least	10	But not over	12	Before	8-31 (current year)	Senior

### • Cheerleading

At least	4	But not over	6	Before	8-31 (current year)	Bantam
At least	7	But not over	9	Before	8-31 (current year)	Junior
At least	10	But not over	13	Before	8-31 (current year)	Senior

## Waiting for your coach to call

- The coach that drafted your child will call after the draft and let you know when the first practice will occur.
- Most coaches will begin practice immediately, some as soon as the day after draft.

## Supplies / Equipment

- Each sport has a different equipment need.
  - **Baseball:** a glove that fits your child’s hand appropriately, cleats (NO metal spikes) and practice attire.
  - **Football:** Shoulder pads (fitted appropriately for the child using them); pant pads-hip, tail, thigh, knee; Mouth guards (2 at least); helmet (fitted to child’s head, make sure it is not too tight as it can cause headaches, but also not too loose as it will not be effective); chin guard (preferably a hard plastic); keep in mind that our rules DO NOT allow helmet visors in any color other than CLEAR.
  - **Basketball:** No additional equipment is needed unless you would like to purchase a basketball for your child. Each league uses different sizes of balls so keep this in mind when purchasing a ball to practice with.



## First Practice

- The first practice is usually filled with information from the coach about the season and what to expect. It may be a good idea to take some paper to jot down notes.
- The coach will usually tell you about the uniforms (which are usually ordered right around the first week of practices), fundraisers for the team, carnival (except in Basketball) and concession duty (except in Basketball). He/she will likely have additional information regarding dates to remember for the season.
- Schedules are usually not made available until the week before the first game. He/she will know the date of the first game, just not the time.
- Each sport has different guidelines for how much practice time a coach can have. For baseball and football, most practices occur 3-4 times a week then have a game that following Saturday. Your coach will usually talk with the parents to see when the best days and times are to practice. Football is the one sport that has the most practice.

## Uniforms



Your registration fees **DO NOT** cover the cost of uniforms, except for Cheerleading for which the uniform fee is paid at the time of the registration fee. The coach will determine the uniform layout and will usually discuss this with you at the first practice as well as let you know the cost.

## Team Fee

Each team is required to pay a team fee. Each league differs.

- Basketball - \$200
- Baseball - \$100 (Shetland) \$200 (All other leagues)
- Football - \$200
- Cheerleading - \$75

This helps cover additional expenses that is not covered through registration fees. It's in place to help keep the cost down to the parents. Team Fees are usually raised through team fundraising efforts. Each coach gives there sports commissioner a post dated check that is usually dated after the carnival and once your team pays the team fee through your fundraising efforts then the post dated check will be returned to the coach.

## Fundraiser

Most every team will do a fundraiser. "WAIT! RYA said no individual fundraiser."...you say! That is correct; RYA does not have a mandatory fundraiser at registration. We do however allow the teams to do a fundraiser to raise funds for the team fee and then other items the team uses or gives to the player. This could include: team paraphernalia, individual team awards, or team parties. If a team does not raise more than the team fee then there will be no other items purchased for the players. It is the incentive of the parents to raise as much money as they can to help your child have a more fulfilled season. One question that may be raised is that if something is purchased for the team; it usually stays with the team/coach. Your child may move on to a new league but the "team" items usually stay with the team. Items that this could include are blocking dummies for football, run through banners in cheerleading, hitting sticks for baseball or whistles for basketball.

## Pictures



RYA schedules a photography company to take individual and team photos for each sport. This usually occurs about 3-4 weeks after the season has started. The pictures are sold as a package to the parents and start at around \$25. When pictures are scheduled,

your coach or team mom will schedule them approximately 1 hour prior to your game to help ensure adequate time to do your pre game warm up.

## Coach questions

- Most coaches like to discuss any issues you may have with what is happening with the team or your child when the children are not present. Either call the coach or take time to talk to the coach before or after practice.
- Please keep in mind that all of our coaches are volunteers and are not professional or paid coaches.

## Playing time



All children that participate in RYA play in each game. Now that time does vary due to the skill levels. Different sports do have different regulations for this. The coach will usually explain this but if you do have

a question, please feel free to ask. Keep in mind that RYA is a competitive recreational league. Statistics are kept and playoff games are played so it is an incentive for the teams to win. Every child's experience with RYA is important that is why all children play in the games, but some players may play more than others. As a child improves, throughout practice, they may play more time throughout the season.

## Carnival



This is the best time for teams to raise money. We hold carnival during baseball and during Football/Cheerleading seasons. Each team may have a booth. These booths are chosen by the team moms at the team mom meeting. Each coach draws a number at the sports draft to see what order they get to choose the booths. The team with the number 1 gets to choose the first booth and so on. No two booths can be the same. We do this each year to keep the money raising fair. Some booths do much better financially than others, so it is competitive as to who gets what booth. Most coaches have been through this for years and are well aware of what booths are available but we are always up for new ideas. Please share your ideas with the coach. There are a few coaches that choose not to participate in the carnival and that is usually because they have had a sponsor that has donated a large sum of money.

## Team Mom

Each team needs a great team mom. This is usually the one parent who helps the coach with all the tasks that he has trouble doing. The following are a few of the job duties a team mom might perform: Bookkeeping, scorekeeping, organization of team fundraisers, picture scheduling, concession scheduling, and end of season party.

## Concession Duty

During Baseball and Football/Cheerleading, all teams are required to perform one 4 hr shift in the concession stand.

Each shift must have a minimum of six volunteers from your team. We encourage parents to help your team and volunteer when your team is scheduled. RYA decided a few years ago to go this route, not just because nearly every association in the area does it this way, but to help with costs to the parents. The extra money that we can make on concession is put right back into the programs that your child participates in, thus keeping registration costs down to a minimum. Please keep in mind that when you register your child, you are agreeing to volunteer in the concession stand when it is your teams turn.



## End of Season

- RYA is a competitive recreational league. There will be a playoff in all sports except cheerleading and 3&4 Shetland T-Ball. Trophies are awarded at this level of play for the players. Teams may choose to purchase trophies for their team even if they do not end up in the playoffs and this is paid for through team fundraising revenues. Some teams also hold team parties if there are funds available.
- The next sports season is usually registering for new players when the end of the season occurs. If you are interested in the next sports, ask your coach about registration.

## What to Question



Anything you do not understand. Remember, all parents were new parents at one time and no question is a bad question.

**GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!!!**

**FROM**

**YOUR RYA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**